Staying Friends (After Conflict)

Read the story of Supreme and Spoon, two friends who met playing the online game “Fate.” When Spoon gets frustrated from not having all the latest gear, he starts cheating to get ahead. Find out how this affects their friendship.

Credit: Comic by ColossalSqvid and RedQueenMachine. Story concept by Otter.

Special thanks to: Blue Tiger and the rest of the Xbox Ambassadors Team for pre-reads and edits.

Page 1:

Panel 1: A red-headed boy (Spoon) is grinning. “Alright!” he says, looking at his computer. The loading screen for the game “Fate” shows 75% complete.
Panel 2: In the game, there is a desert background with blue skies and some rocky hills in the background. Spoon’s character is wearing simple armor. We can see he is a level 9 and his friend Supreme is a level 10. Supreme greets him, “Hey! You made it!” Her gear is a lot more flashy. There are other players in the shot, showing off their gear. “Check out the new augment I bought!” says Zhan, showing Jay a blue fire ball.
Panel 3: The other two players levels are now visible. Zhan is a level 6 and Jay is level 5. Jay says, “I’m going to upgrade my katana tomorrow!” Spoon is in the foreground, looking troubled as he sees lower level players with more than him.
Panel 4: Supreme and Spoon walk away, Spoon still with a sour expression. In the background, Zhan is saying, “Nice! The new upgrades are the coolest!”
One week later.
Panel 5: Supreme finished a quest and asks the other players in her group, “Hey, have you guys seen Spoon?” One of them replies, “Not since last week,” while opening a chest of gold.
Panel 6: In real life, Spoon is shopping online.
Panel 7: We see a zoomed in shot of Spoon’s computer, showing the Fate in-game shop. His account balance is $7.35. The items for sale are a Vandelarian blue magic power-up for $19.99, a Journeyman’s headband for $14.99, and an emerald power stone for $49.99.
Panel 8: Spoon sulks in the kitchen when his mother tells him he, “can’t spend money on a game! You’ve used up all your birthday money, remember?”
Panel 9: In the dark of his room, Spoon looks over bits of computer code. He looks tired.
Panel 10: We can see a zoom-in of his screen with a code calling for an item called the Legendary Sword.
Panel 11: In the game, Spoon is now wearing upgraded armor, including the Journeyman’s headband. Other players comment on his appearance, “Check out that gear!” and “Whoa.”

Page 2:

Panel 1: Spoon overhears the group of three players complimenting his gear continuing their conversation. One of them says, “Yeah, I’m pretty sure he’s cheating.” The other two look surprised. “What?”
Panels 2-3: Spoon storms off, then turns to look over his shoulder as one of the players runs after him shouting, “Wait!”
Panel 4: Spoon and the other player stand together as the sun sets on the in-game desert. The other player asks Spoon, “Hey… can you get me cool gear like yours?”
Panel 5: As Spoon talks to the other player, Supreme sees them and approaches. “Hey… Spoon? Is that you?”
Panel 6: Supreme smiles at Spoon’s appearance while the other player runs off happily. “Cool gear,” she says. “When did you buy it?” Spoon proudly tells her, “It’s a mod!”
Panel 7: Spoon, still smiling adds, “I can get you some if you want!” Supreme is shocked. “A mod?!”
Panel 8: “Mods aren’t allowed for a reason!” Supreme exclaims, giving Spoon a worried look. He has his arms crossed and looks annoyed. Supreme asks, “Did that kid buy one from you?”
Panel 9: “No!” Spoon answers angrily. “I gave it to her – we’re friends!” Supreme doesn’t seem convinced.
Panel 10: Supreme points to the glowing green stone Spoon is holding. “Is that how you got that power stone?” Spoon holds it close to his chest.
Panel 11: “It only drops after the boss!” Supreme explains. “Can you even use it?” Spoon looks at the stone in shock.
Panel 12: Spoon tries to activate the stone without success while Supreme watches in disapproval.
Panel 13: Supreme continues to look at Spoon disapprovingly. Spoon gives up trying to make the stone work and shouts, “I’ll figure it out, OK??”
Panel 14: Spoon storms off, making a sound of annoyance, “Ugh!” Supreme is left behind to worry.
A few days later.
Panel 15: Spoon approaches Supreme in the game, still wearing his upgraded gear.
Panel 16: When Supreme sees him, Spoon says, “Hey… been a while.” She responds, “Spoon? Hey!”
Panel 17: Spoon smiles in embarrassment, “Sorry about earlier-” Supreme talks at the same time, “No, I-“
Panel 18: They are interrupted by another player with a blonde braid. She goes up to them asking, “Spoon, right? I’m here about that relic…?” Supreme regards her with confusion. “Relic?”
Panel 19: Turning to Spoon, Supreme asks, “…Spoon?” He looks impatiently at her.
Panel 20: “Please don’t do this…” Supreme says. Spoon’s expression darkens further. “Or what?” he replies.

Page 3:

Panel 1: Supreme looks away sadly from Spoon. “Please?” she says. “I don’t want to report you.” Spoon is shocked. “Report!?”
Panel 2: Spoon calls the blonde player over, “Hey kid.” Supreme watches on questioningly.
Panel 3: Spoon hands the girl some red floating stones. “Here’s that relic you wanted.” Supreme’s eyes widen.
Panel 4: Spoon looks over at Supreme with a challenging look. Supreme continues to look stunned.
Panel 5: Supreme storms away while he and the other player watch her leave. “Whatever, Spoon!” Supreme shouts.
Later that day.
Panel 6: Supreme sits in her room, in the real world. It’s about 8 PM (20:00). She has her headset on and is staring at her computer, which has a Word document open.
Panel 7: Zoomed in on her screen, we see the first side of the document. “Report?” Beneath this title are reasons for why she feels she should report Spoon. “Mods ruin it for other gamers. Cheating is a slippery slope. His hacks aren’t just cosmetic. No fun to game together now, he’s throwing off team stats.”
Panel 8: Under the title “Not Report?” on the document, there is only one reason listed, “He’s your friend.”
Panel 9-11: Supreme lifts her finger, then clicks down on her mouse to hit “Report.”
Panel 12: In the game, Supreme’s in-game avatar is actively filling out the Report form. “Report Misconduct. Your feedback has been registered… Thanks for making the game…” Her expression in the game mirrors her expression in the real world. She is heart broken.
Panel 13: “Sorry Spoon,” Supreme says to herself.
Panel 14: It is night time in the game. In a village, Spoon can be seen handing over a weapon with red spikes to another player. “Here’s that mace you asked for,” he says. The player with short dark hair and face paint on his cheeks grins excitedly. “Oh man!”
Panel 15: Before Spoon can give him the mace, a notification pops up above their heads in the game. “Notice of Suspension. Player Spoon, your account has been temporarily suspended. This suspension may last for 14 days.” The short-haired player looks up along with Spoon at the text box.
Panel 16: In the real world, Spoon has taken off his headset and shouts at the suspension notice in shock. “What?!”
Panel 17: Spoon leaves his room to go down to the kitchen. His older brother pauses with a bottle of water in his hand. “What’s eating you?” Spoon doesn’t look at him as he answers, “Nothing…”
Panel 18-19: Time passes. There is a rain storm in the first panel while Spoon sits by with his arms folded. The next day, the sun is shining and Spoon puts away some laundry.
Panel 20: “Finally!” Spoon exclaims as he gets an email on his phone. “Suspended Account Unlocked. Slide to read.”

XBOX AMBASSADORS

Page 4:

Panel 1: Spoon is back in the game, wearing his original basic armor. Supreme sees him coming and calls to him, “Spoon! Welcome back!”
Panel 2: Spoon ignores her greeting. “I can’t believe you reported me!” he says. “I thought we were friends!”
Panel 3: Supreme looks at him sadly. “I am your friend!” she replies, “but cheating’s wrong!” Spoon turns to leave, his face expressionless. “I don’t know about you,” he says.
Panel 4: “But here?” Spoon continues, as he walks away. “Friends don’t report friends.” Supreme watches sadly and lets him leave.
Panel 5: In the real world, Spoon is venting to his older brother. “And then I offered her a mod, but she reported me! I thought we were friends!!” His brother smiles as he cleans some tools in the garage.
Panel 6: “Do you remember when we were kids?” Spoons brother says. “You used to tattle on me all the time!” He slings his arm around Spoon’s shoulders. “Oh…” says Spoon.
Panel 7: Spoon’s brother puts him in a headlock and ruffles Spoon’s hair. “I learned a lesson from you ratting me out. Friends don’t let friends do bad things, kiddo.”
Panel 8: Spoon considers this, fixing his hair as his brother returns to his project in the garage.
Later.
Panel 9: In the game, Spoon and Supreme are back in the desert. Spoon has his plain armor on as he walks over to Supreme. “Hey…” he says. “Spoon?” Supreme answers.
Panel 10: Spoon smiles. “Sorry I got mad earlier…” Supreme starts to talk too, “No, I’m sorry for what…” Spoon continues to apologize, “You were right to though…”
Panel 11: The two smile at one another and Spoon offers his hand to Supreme. “Friends?” he asks. Supreme hesitates. “Even though ‘Friends don’t report friends?’”
Panel 12: They shake hands after Spoon replies, “Yeah, friends don’t let friends do bad things, either.”
Panel 13: “So,” says Spoon. “Friends?” Supreme nods, happily. “Friends!”
Panel 14: Spoon and Supreme are surrounded by the glowing crystals of a final boss fight. Wearing a little better armor, but not the upgraded gear he coded for himself, Spoon holds the green power stone he previously did not know how to use. He’s unlocked how to activate it and Supreme cheers him on.[/vc_column_text][/vc_column][/vc_row]